

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

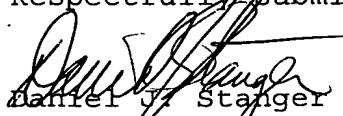
Claims 19-20, 22-23, and 25-26 are now pending.

Claims 18, 21 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art in view of Okumura et al., U.S. 5,926,823. Without admitting to the propriety of the rejection, these claims have been canceled.

Claims 19-20, 22-23, and 25-26 are said to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claims 19, 22, and 25 have been rewritten in independent form, such that Claims 19-20, 22-23, and 25-26 should now be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully Submitted,



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